Shelter for All

*308. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any policy for providing housing facilities in the direction of Shelter for All;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has consulted the States before finalizing such policy; and

(d) if so, their responses thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy (NUHHP) announced in 2007 aims at promotion of sustainable development of habitat in the country with a view to ensure equitable supply of land, shelter and services at affordable prices to all sections of society. Given the magnitude of the housing shortage and budgetary constraints of both the Central and State Governments, the Policy seeks to associate multiple stakeholders, the Private Sector, the Cooperative Sector, the Industrial Sector and the Services/Institutional Sector for realizing the goal of **"Affordable Housing for All"**.

(c) and (d) The Conference of Housing Ministers of States/Union Territories organized by the Ministry on 29-30 November, 2004 at New Delhi recommended that the National Housing and Habitat and Policy, 1998 needs to be revised through a consultative process and the revised policy should accelerate supply of serviced land and housing with particular focus to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Group (LIG) categories and take into account the need for development of supporting infrastructure and basic services to all categories. Accordingly, an exercise was initiated for review of National Housing and Habitat Policy, 1998 in view of socio-economic changes since 1998, to achieve the goal of "Affordable housing for All".

A Task Force was constituted under the Chairpersonship of the then Secretary, Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and the draft Policy prepared was further discussed in a National Consultation of representatives of State Government and Central Ministries, Task Force Members, Non Government Organizations and other stakeholders etc. on 05.10.2005 at New Delhi.

The present National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007 is based on these deliberations and has been widely circulated to all States/Union Territories.

Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in Delhi

*309. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to construct a Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in Delhi;

(b) if so, the proposed schedule and the estimated expenditure;

(c) whether the location has been finalized and land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) It is proposed to construct a Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra (PBK) on three plots of land (15A, 15B and 15D — total measuring 9666 sq.mts.) in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, allotted to the Ministry by the Ministry of Urban Development. The PBK is expected to be completed by the end of 2012.

The Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure has recommended the proposal for construction of PBK at an estimated cost of Rs.107.22 crore subject to review of the cost estimated by the NBCC, in consultation with the CPWD, so as to ensure reasonableness of the estimates.

Increase in Chinese Military Power

†*310. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that China is increasing its military power constantly;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement of Chinese strategists in which there is a suggestion to work for dividing India into 20-30 parts; and

(c) if so, whether Government would determine its foreign and defence policy keeping in view the Chinese activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is aware of media reports to such effect. The statement appears to be an expression of individual opinion and does not accord with China's officially stated position on India-China relations conveyed to India on several occasions, including at the highest level.

(c) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's security and takes all necessary measures, including through its foreign and defence policy, to safeguard it.

Incentive Scheme for Capacity Building

311. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Incentive Scheme for capacity building and objectives thereof;

(b) the number and dates of the proposals received by the Central Government from Madhya Pradesh under this scheme and the amount sought for each proposal; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.